

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 40 and 54 through 67 are presented for examination in the present application upon entry of the instant Preliminary Amendment.

The specification has been amended to include the headings required by MPEP 608.01(a). The Abstract has been amended to conform to U.S. practice by correcting translation errors and removing reference numerals.

Claims 1 through 40 have been amended to conform to U.S. practice. Specifically, claims 1 through 40 have been amended to correct translation errors, to remove reference numerals, to provide proper antecedent basis to all claim elements, and to remove multiple dependencies. Thus, full equivalents for each element of these claims should be available to Applicants.

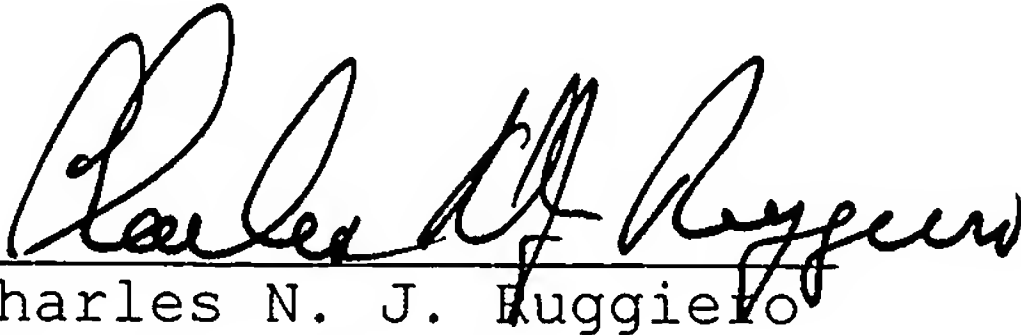
Claims 54 through 67 have been added to point out various aspects of the present invention. Support for claims 54 through 67 can be found at least in original claims 1 through 53.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for examination. Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and passage of this application to allowance.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below for an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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